

(Ireland.)

THE
EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND;

Dated *April 7th*, 1821.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 14 May 1821.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY CHARLES CHETWYND EARL TALBOT,
LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE the Commissioners of Education in *Ireland*, nominated and appointed under an Act made and passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, in the fifty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty King *George the Third*, intituled, "An Act for the appointment of Commissioners, for the regulation of the several endowed Schools of public and "private Foundation in *Ireland*,"—Proceed to lay before your Excellency, in obedience to the Provisions of the said Act, a Report of such Transactions of our Board, from the 25th of *March* 1820, to the 25th day of *March* last, as are deserving of Your Excellency's notice.

And first, with respect to such of the Schools of Royal Foundation as have occupied particular attention since the period of our last Report, we have to state to Your Excellency, that we directed our Architect to examine and report by what alteration and improvements the School House of *Enniskillen*, situate at *Portora*, could be rendered capable of containing one hundred Boarders and four Ushers; and, that the Architect made his Report to us accordingly; and so soon as the receipt of Rents from the School Estate shall furnish the means, our Board will proceed to place this Establishment on the most extensive scale of which it is capable, for the purposes of classical Education; and in the mean time we have caused temporary repairs to be made on the buildings.

We have also caused a Commission to be issued, as warranted by certain Statutes, to view and estimate such dilapidations in the School Buildings as had been suffered in the time of the late Master, who has shown every disposition to facilitate the ascertainment of the amount of such dilapidations.

We informed Your Excellency in our last Annual Report of the great insubordination of the Tenantry of the School Estate of *Raphoe*, and we are concerned to state, that the same causes which prevented our recovering the arrears of Rent due thereon still subsist, notwithstanding the exertions of this Board, and of its Solicitor and Land Agents, assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Pakenham, and some other gentlemen of the county of *Donegal*.

A general combination has been organised amongst the Tenants to resist the payment of Rents to this Board, and even to controvert its title; and we are informed that

that a regular system of contribution to a common fund has been established, wherewith they have been enabled to litigate; and accordingly, when with much difficulty distresses for rent were made on a portion of the stock of some of the Tenants, the chief part of it having been removed at night to remote parts of the country, replevins have been issued by the persons distrained, which replevins are still depending; and actions having been brought by our Board against other Tenants to recover their arrears, they have been litigiously resisted; and points of law have been reserved from the last Assizes of *Donegal* for argument in the Courts above in the ensuing term. And our Board having given directions for the service on the Tenants of notices to quit, in order to remove them from the lands, it has been found quite impracticable to serve such notices, except in very few instances, by reason of the persons so sought to be served having closed their doors against the agents and process servers employed by this Board, and by reason of apprehension of personal danger to themselves. The Masters salaries have consequently fallen much into arrear; and as this Board is disabled from applying the surplus Fund of one School subject to its jurisdiction for the support of another, it has not power by the said Act of the 53d Gen. III. to contract a loan for the payment of the Salaries. We beg leave to represent to Your Excellency the great hardship of the situation of the said Masters, in the hope that some fund may be provided for their support, until the Estate can be rendered productive, which probably might be effected, and much expense saved to the Consolidated Fund, were a power given to the Court of Chancery to appoint a Receiver of the Rents of School Estates, and adjust the claims of the creditors of School Estates, on a summary application by petition. And we have also to acquaint Your Excellency, that we, on the 14th of October last, executed a power of Attorney to the Reverend *James Irwin*, the Master, and Mr. *J. Miller*, his Brother-in-law, at the request of Mr. *Irwin*, empowering them, as Agents for us, to receive the rents and arrears of rents of this Estate, as it had been alleged that local Agents would be more successful; and it had been suggested to our Board that there was a likelihood of collecting the arrears through the agency of the persons most interested therein; and we invested them and our Solicitor with somewhat discretionary powers as to the settling with the defaulting Tenants; but no advantage has been as yet produced from any of our exertions.

We have recently appointed a local agent for the School Lands of *Carysfort*, as well as for the Estates of the other Schools of Royal Foundation, and as the Tenantry of this Estate, who have hitherto held at will, have expressed a wish to take Leases from our Board, for certain terms, we expect that the Funds of this Endowment will enable us to erect a proper School-house, which is much required, the Master being unable to inhabit the present one in winter, whereas in summer instruction is afforded to 120 children of the vicinity.

Our attention to the digesting of a plan for the Diocesan or District Schools, having been particularly demanded by a letter from the Right honourable Charles Grant, by command of Your Excellency, we did proceed (notwithstanding the circumstances of difficulty adverted to in our last Annual Report to Your Excellency) to make the best arrangement of these Schools within our power; and in a Special Report, dated the 20th of November last, we laid the same before Your Excellency, to which we beg leave to refer, in like manner as if the same were herein particularly set forth.

We beg leave further to submit to Your Excellency, in respect of the schools of *Newton* and *Ballyroan*, that our Solicitor has reported to us, that in pursuance of the Lord Chancellor's Decree, directing it to be inquired into in whom the nomination of Masters of these Schools is now vested, and who was the heir-at-law of the survivor of the Trustees named in the Deed of Endowment of the 6th July 1686; it has been, after much research, ascertained, that the Earl of Castlestewart is heir-at-law of the surviving Trustee in said Deed; and that the right of appointment is vested in the said Earl of Castlestewart, Lord Tara, and the Reverend Joseph Faveire, and the Master's report to that effect has been applied for; and pursuant to the order of the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor communicated to us, whereby his Lordship had directed the transfer to our Board of the Stock and sums of money standing in the name of the Accountant-General, to the credit of the cause; the said Stock has been transferred to this Board accordingly; and the balance of which Fund, after deducting certain bills of our Solicitor, remains at the disposal of our Board, to be applied towards advancing the interests of this School Establishment.

Establishment, so soon as the Chancery proceedings shall be terminated, as they are very shortly expected to be.

Since the date of our last Report, the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney-General respecting the validity of the title of the Master of *Wicklow School* to the Lands granted by the Earl of Chesterfield, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, free from the Crown rent for payment whereof the Master's cattle had been erroneously distrained by the collector of Wicklow, has been transmitted to us by the Board of Excise. The Attorney-General is of opinion that Mr. Corcoran, the Master, should not have been called on to pay, or have been distrained for that rent, it not having been due by or chargeable to him; and that therefore nothing further, in his opinion, is necessary to be done but to issue an order to strike the Land out of the charge of the collector, he not being aware that any proceeding, whereby expense might be incurred, can be required to set matters right. However it may be expedient hereafter for the Crown to make a regular grant of the Land for the Endowment of the School. And we beg leave further to state to Your Excellency, that we have been informed by the Reverend Mr. Corcoran, the Master of that School, that although he actually paid a sum of twenty pounds and upwards to the Collector, for such alleged Crown-rent, it has not been, as yet, repaid to him; and that he has not been put into possession of the entire of the Lands of Wicklow Castle, as formerly granted by the Earl of Chesterfield, (as before mentioned,) and as enjoyed by his predecessors as Masters of the said School, and we respectfully await Your Excellency's orders on these points.

We have further to state to Your Excellency, that finding it impossible to obtain, within a convenient period, a clear unencumbered title to the Lands selected by the Trustees of *Tullavin School*, under the authority of this Board, or any Site on the estate of the founder, we have agreed for the purchase from Thomas Willes, Esq. for such purpose, of a portion of Land (being about three acres) contiguous to the estate of the Founder, and convenient for the inhabitants of Tullavin, whereon to build such School-house, and for which Land, valued at a rent of 2*l.* per acre, we have agreed to pay Mr. Willes at the rate of twenty years purchase.

And our Counsel having approved of the title of Mr. Willes, and he being ready to convey to our Board, we are about to conclude this transaction, and to direct the immediate commencement of the building pursuant to the plan laid before us by our Architect.

We further beg leave to state, that we are informed that the Board of Charitable Donations having caused application to be made for the amount of the arrears of the Annuity of twenty pounds, bequeathed by Mr. *Alexander Cairnes*, long since deceased, for the Establishment of a Mathematical Master to teach in the Town of *Monaghan*, and which arrears accrued in pursuance of the claim to the said sum of twenty pounds of certain persons no-wise entitled thereto, the Dowager Lady *Rossmore* has assured their Solicitor that the arrears will be paid over to our Board so soon as the assets of the late Countess of *Clermont* can be collected; and that the yearly sum of twenty pounds will be in future regularly discharged. And it is our intention to arrange a plan for the carrying into full effect the intentions of the Donor when the arrears shall have been paid in, and the Government shall have finally resolved whether the Diocesan School of *Clagher*, now kept at *Monaghan*, is to be there continued or not.

With respect to the School of *Calperstown* in the county of *Kildare*, mentioned in our last Annual Report to Your Excellency, we beg leave to report, that the Governors of the *Erasmus Smiths* Schools have complied with our request to give aid to that School from their Funds, pending the Suit instituted by the Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests, to recover the Funds devised by Sir Richard Levinge for that Charity, by allocating for the Master of that School, until the Suit shall be ended, a Yearly Salary of 40*l.*—Having thus reported to Your Excellency on such of our transactions as principally deserve your Excellency's notice, we defer the mention of many other matters and subjects under discussion by our Board until sufficiently matured to claim Your Excellency's attention. We do not feel ourselves at liberty, in a report of this nature, to enter into any specification of the imperfections of the jurisdiction under which we act, further than to state in general terms, as Your Excellency's Government has been in a great measure apprized, that the exertions of this Board to place on a permanent and perfect footing the School Establishments, subject to its control, have been materially im-

ped by the want of powers to summon before it, for examination in the Metropolis, the Masters of Schools, and other persons who can give them useful information, the visitatorial power granted by the 53d Geo. III. not extending thereto, according to the opinion of eminent Counsel; and further impeded by reason of the want of Funds, none being at its disposal, except such as can be raised by means of the Incomes of the respective Schools, and the authority of this Board not extending to appropriate the Surplus Revenues of one School to the improvement of another whose Income is deficient.

All which is humbly submitted.

JOHN GEORGE DUBLIN, (1. s.)

NATHANIEL DOWN, (1. s.)

JOHN RADCLIFF, (2. s.)

SAMUEL KYLE, (4. s.)

April 7, 1821.

Chas. Wm. Walker,

Secretary.

A true Copy.

(Ireland)

THE
EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND;

Dated 27th July, 1821.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
16 May 1821.*